



BATMAN

LEGENDS OF THE

# DARK KNIGHT

NO 66 DEC 9,

195 1975 CAN 25



## GOING SANE

part two de matteis · staton · mitchell

--POLICE SAY THE BLOATED, DISFIGURED BODY HAS BEEN FLOATING IN GOTHAM BAY FOR WEEKS NOW AND, AS YET, NO POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION OF THE VICTIM HAS BEEN MADE.

INITIAL MEDICAL REPORTS INDICATE THAT THE MAN WAS BRUTALLY BEATEN AND STRANGLED--

--BEFORE BEING THROWN INTO THE BAY.

GORDON TALKS A GOOD GAME, BUT THE FACT IS THIS MANIAL, THIS TERRORIST HAS BRUTALIZED OUR CITY--

--I DON'T THINK I HAVE TO REMIND ANYONE ABOUT THE BOMBING IN PARK RIDGE THAT PRECEDED MY ABDUCTION--

--AND HE REMAINS AT LARGE.

WHY, CAPTAIN GORDON?

IT'S BEEN THREE WEEKS SINCE I WAS BEATEN AND DEGRADED AT THAT MONSTER'S HANDS! SINCE THE BLOOD OF GOTHAM'S CHILDREN RAN IN OUR STREETS!

WHY HASN'T ALL YOUR BRAVE TALK TRANSLATED INTO CONCRETE ACTION?

IN OTHER NEWS-- THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE KIDNAPPING OF COUNCILWOMAN ELIZABETH KENNER CONTINUES.

ALTHOUGH A THOROUGH ANALYSIS OF THE REMAINS OF THE "COMEDIA THEATER" WHERE THE COUNCILWOMAN WAS HELD CAPTIVE BY THE JOKER HAS FAILED TO TURN UP ANYTHING SUBSTANTIAL--

--CAPTAIN OF DETECTIVES JAMES GORDON INSISTS THAT THE JOKER WILL BE FOUND AND APPREHENDED SOON.

COUNCIL-WOMAN KENNER ISN'T CONVINCED...

AND YOU CAN PASS MY QUESTION ALONG TO THAT OTHER POSTURING PROTECTOR OF THE WEAK AND INNOCENT!

IN THE PAST, BATMAN HAS AT LEAST BEEN ABLE TO BRING THE JOKER TO JUSTICE, BUT LATELY--



"--HE SEEMS TO HAVE DISAPPEARED!"



"IS HE LOWERING IN A HOLE SOMEWHERE, AS AFRAID AS GORDON IS?"



"OR IS HE PERHAPS--"



"--ANOTHER OF  
THE JOKER'S  
VICTIMS?"



THE MONSTER.

BLACK WINGS. DEAD EYES. AFTER ME. ALWAYS AFTER ME.

TRYING TO PUSH ME DOWN, INTO THE RIVER. DROWN ME.

GOTTA RUN AND HIDE. CHANGE MY NAME. CHANGE MY FACE-- SO HE'LL NEVER FIND ME!

MY FACE?

THAT'S NOT MY FACE!  
THAT'S THE MONSTER!  
THE REAL MONSTER!

PASTY-WHITE SKIN!  
AWFUL SOULLESS GRIN!

--AND MAKE ME LIKE HIM!

STOP IT!  
STOP LAUGHING  
AT ME!

WHY WON'T  
YOU LEAVE  
ME ALONE--  
BOTH OF  
YOU?

HE HATES ME! MORE  
THAN THE BAT DOES!  
HE'S HUNGRY FOR ME!

WANTS TO CUT UP MY LIFE,  
SLICE IT TO RIBBONS, KILL  
ALL THAT'S DECENT AND  
GOOD IN ME--

I HATE YOU! I HATE  
YOU! I HATE YOU! BAT-  
WINGS, CLOWN-FACE--  
PUSHING ME DOWN/  
CUTTING ME UP/CAN'T  
STAY AFLOAT/CAN'T  
CATCH MY BREATH!

OH, GOD, IT HURTS!  
OH, GOD, I'M  
DROWNING!

I'M--



GOTTA STOP FALLING ASLEEP WITH THE TV ON. ALL THAT BAD NEWS FILTERS IN. DON'T KNOW WHY I BOTHER WITH IT AT ALL--NOTHING BUT KILLING AND CRAZINESS.

MAKES GOTHAM SEEM LIKE SUCH A SCARY PLACE.  
IT'S NO WONDER I HAVE NIGHTMARES.

STILL, I'M GLAD  
I DECIDED TO  
MOVE HERE  
FROM...

...FROM...

DOCTOR SAID IT'D BE A GOOD  
CHANGE AFTER MY ILLNESS.  
AND WITH MOMMA AND  
POPPA GONE, WELL... IT'S  
REALLY TIME I STRUCK OUT  
ON MY OWN.

AND THE TRUTH IS, FOR ALL  
THE BAD STUFF YOU HEAR  
ON THE NEWS, GOTHAM'S A  
PRETTY NICE TOWN. AND  
PARK RIDGE IS A TERRIFIC  
NEIGHBORHOOD. I'M SO  
LUCKY I FOUND THIS  
APARTMENT SO QUICKLY!

YEAH,  
THINGS'RE  
LOOKING  
UP. LIFE'S  
GOOD.

GOT SOME MONEY IN THE  
BANKS THANKS TO THAT  
LITTLE INHERITANCE MOMMA  
AND POPPA LEFT ME...

...A GOOD JOB WITH A REP-  
UTABLE ACCOUNTING FIRM.

WHAT MORE DO I NEED? I'M NOT A GUY WITH BIG  
DREAMS. ALL I WANT IS A SAFE LITTLE CORNER  
OF THE WORLD TO CALL MY OWN.

AND, WELL, MAYBE  
A NICE GIRL...

**WUMP**

...TO COMPLETE  
THE PICTURE.

OH, MY  
GOODNESS!

**KLANK**





--BUT MR. KENNER--IT'S BEEN WELL OVER A MONTH NOW, AND THE JOKER STILL HASN'T BEEN HEARD FROM.

AND SOME PEOPLE WOULD LIKE YOU TO BELIEVE THAT MEANS WE'RE SAFE, ROY.

DON'T BE FOOLED.



A SICK MIND LIKE HIS IS PROBABLY PLANNING SOME KIND OF MASS DESTRUCTION...MURDER ON AN EVEN GRANDER SCALE THAN THE PARK RIDGE TRAGEDY.

AND LET'S NOT BE NAIVE. JUST BECAUSE WE HAVEN'T HEARD ABOUT HIS ACTIVITIES DOESN'T MEAN HE HASN'T BEEN ACTIVE.

WHO KNOWS HOW MANY OTHER INNOCENTS HAVE BEEN ABDUCTED IN THE TIME THE POLICE HAVE LET THE MANIAC ROAM FREE?



HOW MANY MORE WOMEN MAY BE SUFFERING THE TORMENT THAT I SUFFERED AT THE JOKER'S HANDS?



ARE YOU SUGGESTING A COVER-UP?

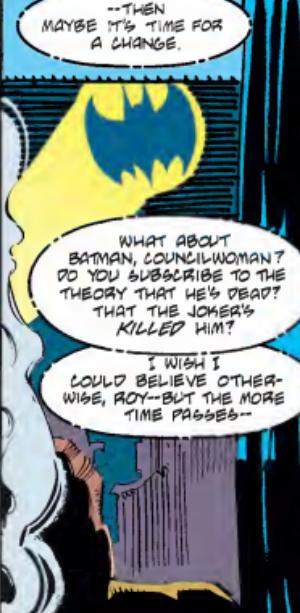
ALL I'M SAYING IS THIS: NO ONE IN THIS CITY IS SAFE AS LONG AS THE JOKER IS AT LARGE. AND, IF THE CURRENT ADMINISTRATION CAN'T BE TRUSTED TO BRING HIM IN--



--THEN MAYBE IT'S TIME FOR A CHANGE.

WHAT ABOUT BATMAN, COUNCIL-WOMAN? DO YOU SUBSCRIBE TO THE THEORY THAT HE'S DEAD? THAT THE JOKER'S KILLED HIM?

I WISH I COULD BELIEVE OTHERWISE, ROY--BUT THE MORE TIME PASSES--



--THE MORE CERTAIN IT SEEMS.



I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT I'VE FOUND A WOMAN LIKE REBECCA. SOMEONE WHO APPRECIATES ME. WHO ENJOYS WHAT I ENJOY.

WHOD RATHER WATCH OLD MOVIES THAN PAY SEVEN DOLLARS FOR THE JUNK THEY'RE PUTTING OUT NOW...

...RATHER LISTEN TO TAPES OF 40'S RADIO SHOWS THAN WATCH THE GARBAGE ON TV...

WHAT A DELIGHT TO COME HOME, KNOCK ON HER DOOR, AND FIND HER WAITING FOR ME.

SLIM



...RATHER DANCE TO TOMMY DORSEY THAN BE DEAFENED BY THE NOISE THAT THEY CALL MUSIC THESE DAYS.



TO SPEND A QUIET EVENING TOGETHER, PLAYING CARDS AND LISTENING TO "JACK BENNY."

WHAT MORE CAN A MAN ASK?

JOSEPH...  
SWEETHEART--  
WHAT IS IT?



JOSEPH?



I'M ALL RIGHT, HONEY. REALLY.

ARE YOU SURE? IF THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG, DARLING, I WANT TO KNOW.

I HAVE YOU IN MY LIFE--

...WHAT  
COULD BE  
WRONG?

They didn't come often—not at first, anyway—and they didn't last long... but I couldn't help being concerned about him.

I knew he hadn't been well before he came to Gotham; he said something once about "a little breakdown"—and there were those pills he was forever taking for his skin condition.

In six weeks, he'd transformed my entire life. Brought me more happiness than I'd ever dreamed was possible. More happiness, certainly, than I deserved.

It was like living in a cocoon, then: just Joseph, me—and occasional visits from George Burns and W.C. Fields, Fred Allen and Baby Snooks.

But he didn't talk about his illness and I wasn't one to pry. Why should I?

We'd joke sometimes—after a night passed, with one of the old comedies we were forever renting, or the vintage radio tapes Joseph and I'd spend half our combined salaries on—that the world outside our door was bound to change.

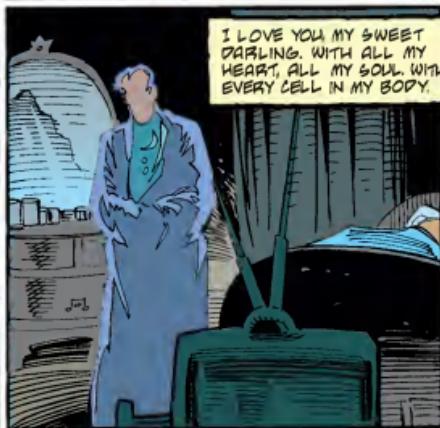
That one night, we'd walk into the street and it'd be the 1940s. It'd be a time and a place where we both belonged.

It was love, pure and simple. It was magic. So why worry? Looking back...



...I should have worried more.





That I could feel his terror, his confusion, radiating off him, in waves. But the funny thing is...

...it only made me love him more.

Love? Love is too small a word for what I felt. I wasn't exactly the kind of woman who'd had lots of men in her life.

I was thirty-five, never married—yet here I was living with a man, sleeping beside him, every night! A man I'd known for less than three months!

Joseph Kerr  
1100 Ocean  
Gotham

When I told Mother about Joseph, I thought she'd be shocked. But she was just happy for me. "He sounds wonderful," she said. "I can't wait to meet him."

And he was wonderful. Gentle. Kind. Thoughtful.

Did buy me flowers, bring me chocolates, for no reason at all.

Joseph Kerr  
1100 Ocean

He was a jewel, my Joseph was a treasure.

Joseph Kerr  
1100 Ocean

But I knew—even as I struggled to deny it—that there was something wrong.

Joseph Kerr  
1100 Ocean

Some secret pain, some hidden sorrow...

Joseph Kerr  
1100 Ocean





BRUCKNER--A PLASTIC SURGEON WHO ALLEGEDLY SPECIALIZED IN PROVIDING NEW FACES FOR WANTED CRIMINALS--

--HAS NOW BEEN LINKED TO THE JOKER. RECENTLY-ARRESTED BURGLAR FRANK MAGUIRE CLAIMS TO HAVE SEEN THE TWO MEN TOGETHER SHORTLY AFTER THE DESTROYATION OF THE "COMEDIA" MOVIE THEATER--

THIS HAS FUELED RUMORS THAT THE JOKER--NEVER APPREHENDED AFTER THE PARK RIDGE "CIRCUS BOMBING" AND THE KIDNAPPING OF COUNCILWOMAN ELIZABETH KENNER--IS STILL AT LARGE IN GOTHAM.

--WHERE THE JOKER WAS TEMPORARILY HEADQUARTERED.

ADDING TO THE ESCALATING TENSIONS IN OUR CITY IS THE GROWING BELIEF THAT THE BATMAN--NOT SIGHTED SINCE THE NIGHT OF KENNER'S KIDNAPPING--

--WAS KILLED WHILE TRYING TO APPREHEND THE JOKER.

AS A RESULT, THE WAR OF WORDS BETWEEN COUNCILWOMAN KENNER AND DETECTIVE CAPTAIN GORDON HAS HEATED UP AGAIN.

IN AN ANGRY CONFRONTATION WITH GORDON ON THE STEPS OF CITY HALL, KENNER--WHO HAS BECOME THE OFFICIAL SPOKESPERSON FOR THE "PARK RIDGE SURVIVOR'S GROUP"--

--DEMANDED THE RESIGNATIONS OF BOTH THE CAPTAIN AND THE MAYOR.

ALL THIS TIME, CAPTAIN GORDON--AND NOT SO MUCH AS A WORD FROM YOUR DEPARTMENT.

NOT EVEN A SCRAP OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE JOKER OR--

WE'VE BEEN DOING EVERYTHING WE CAN. AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO.

NOTHING PLUS NOTHING IS STILL NOTHING, GORDON!

MS. KENNER--I WOULD BE HAPPY TO MEET WITH YOU AND YOUR SUPPORTERS PRIVATELY--BUT THIS LITTLE MEDIA CIRCUS YOU'VE ARRANGED IS EXTREMELY DISTASTEFUL.

I REFUSE TO PERFORM LIKE A MONKEY FOR THE PRESS!

YOU CAN'T SILENCE THE JOKER'S VICTIMS THAT EASILY, CAPTAIN!

JUSTICE WILL BE--

**kljik**









Things got better after that. Or maybe I convinced myself that they did.

No, they did get better. In the following weeks, Joseph was happier than ever. No more odd behavior. No more of his "episodes."

Well, the nightmares continued... but I was always there to comfort and love him.

And he did the same for me.

REBELLA...?

SLEEPING BEAUTY...

-AWAKE!

I don't know what was sweeter: the scent of all those flowers...

...or the sound of Tommy Dorsey and Frank Sinatra drifting in from the living room. "I'll Be Seeing You."

JOSEPH... OH, MY GOODNESS...

It was our favorite song.

We'd play that scratchy old record over and over again, dancing the night away.

WHAT IS ALL THIS?

IT IS, SWEET PRINCESS...

I swear, we must have worn that rug right through.

--IS OUR SIX-MONTH ANNIVERSARY.

WHAT IT IS...

--IS OUR HAPPILY-EVER-AFTER.

REBECCA, JOY OF MY HEART...

--LOVE OF MY LIVES--







...and never come back

...I'M  
BACK.

next month:  
**GOING SANE**  
part three—  
*Breaking  
the Surface!*

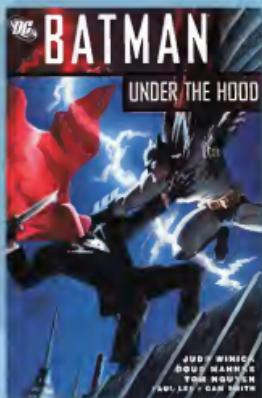
# MORE CLASSIC TALES OF THE DARK KNIGHT

BATMAN: HUSH



JEPH LOEB  
JIM LEE

BATMAN: UNDER THE HOOD  
VOLS. 1 & 2



JUDD WINICK  
DOUG MAHNKE

BATMAN:  
THE LONG HALLOWEEN



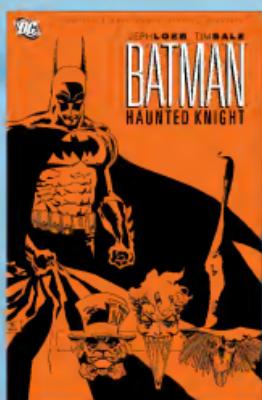
JEPH LOEB  
TIM SALE

BATMAN:  
DARK VICTORY



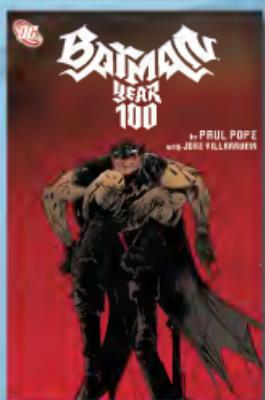
JEPH LOEB  
TIM SALE

BATMAN:  
HAUNTED KNIGHT



JEPH LOEB  
TIM SALE

BATMAN:  
YEAR 100



PAUL POPE

Use the **BUY IN PRINT** feature to find a comics shop near you.  
Check back here every week for **NEW DIGITAL RELEASES!**